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Arizona Criminal Justice Commission Announces New Appointments

Phoenix, AZ, Thursday, August 5, 2021 – Today, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission announces two new appointments: Pima County Attorney Laura Conover and Pima County Sheriff Chris Nanos.

"We are extremely grateful to welcome our two new southern Arizona Commission members," said Chairwoman Sheila Polk. "Each brings valuable and unique experience to the criminal justice system, and we look forward to their involvement in our Commission."

Pima County Attorney Laura Conover was elected in November 2020. She was raised in Tucson and received her undergraduate degrees in political science and Spanish and a law degree from the University of Arizona. After college, she worked as both a clinical law student, then as an attorney. She then worked for the Federal Public Defenders Office for seven years before establishing her own law practice. She specialized in cases ranging from security clearance matters and criminal defense to helping employers hire former offenders and victim representation. In 2018, the federal judiciary appointed Conover to manage nearly 400 Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys statewide.

Sheriff Chris Nanos was elected to the Pima County Sheriff's Office in January 2021. He was raised in El Paso, Texas, and attended the University of Texas – El Paso, majoring in Public Administration-Criminal Justice. Before being elected as Sheriff, Sheriff Nanos began his career in law enforcement in 1976 with the El Paso Police Department. In 1984, he became a member of the Pima County Sheriff's Department as a corrections officer and was soon promoted to deputy the following year. Sheriff Nanos has a strong emphasis and expertise in Criminal Investigations, particularly Violent Crimes, Sex Crimes, and Narcotics Interdiction. He has moved up the ranks within the Pima County Sheriff's Department through his career, previously serving as Chief Deputy and appointed Sheriff in 2015.

"On behalf of the Commission's professional staff, I welcome our new members and thank Governor Ducey for these important appointments to our Commission," said Director Andrew T. LeFevre. "Adding their unique views and voices to the Commission will help ACJC continue to be the state's leading criminal justice resource agency."

To learn more about our Commission members, visit www.azcjc.gov/Commission.

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